

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A system for the mutual transfer of data and information between a utility provider and a customer ~~and vice versa, and wherein said system includes~~ including a means for transmitting information between the utility provider and the premises of the customer or user and said information is viewable and/or retrievable, display means in the premises of the user/customer, and via a supplied monitor, home computer, television or any other display and said customer or user is capable of responding via a keyboard or other selection means to enable/enabling the customer or user to select a response to the information received and said response including a control signal enabling the customer to control the provision and/or usage of said utility from the premises of the user.
2. (currently amended) A system according to claim 1 wherein the information ~~which is received by the apparatus~~ customer is provided by the utility provider to the customer ~~or user~~ and relates to the metering of the consumption of the utility or a plurality of utilities.
3. (currently amended) A system according to claim 1 ~~wherein the~~ further comprising a selection means includes/including a series of buttons which allow/plurality of keys enabling the customer or user to execute commands and responses to the information received from the utility provider.
4. (currently amended) A system according to claim 1 wherein the customer ~~or user~~ obtains entry to the system by the introduction of a coded input.
5. (currently amended) A system according to claim 1 wherein the customer ~~or user can selectively operate control~~ operates said selection means for the controlled utility within the premises.
6. (currently amended) A system according to claim 1 wherein the display means is provided as part of a utility consumption metering apparatus in the premises.
7. (currently amended) A system according to claim 1 wherein information transmitted from the customer ~~or user~~ to the utility provider includes data relating to metering of the use of at least one utility in the premises, said system ~~allowing/enabling~~ enabling the reading and logging of information from ~~all, or a combination of~~ at least one metering apparatus in the premises ~~so as to provide a record of utility usage in any given time period to the utility provider.~~

8. (currently amended) A system according to claim 7 wherein the information is accessible by the customer ~~or user who can then~~, on the basis of information received from the utility provider, ~~sends~~sends a command ~~or selection~~ to one of a ~~range~~plurality of utility providers via the system to select to receive said utility from a selected utility provider.

9. (currently amended) A system for metering the use of a plurality of utilities in a premises in which the system ~~allows~~enables the reading and logging of information from ~~all, or a combination of at least one~~ metering apparatus in the premises ~~so as to provide, to a utility provider, a record, as utility usage profiles, of utility usage in any given time period, as utility usage profiles, and said information is being accessible by the user via a monitor, home computer, television or other display means, said system including communication means to allow enabling said user to selectively transmit the data via the communication means and receive communication from one or more utility providers, and/or and further enabling said user, on the basis of information received from the one or more utility provider providers, to send a command or selection via said communication means to one of a range~~plurality of utility providers to designate said user to receive said utility from a selected utility provider and wherein at least some of the information from the selected utility provider is generated by the selected utility provider on the basis of the utility usage profiles transmitted by the user to the utility provider.

10. (original) A system according to claim 9 wherein the utilities of water, gas, electricity, heating and any other utility which uses a supply or can be charged on a time basis is monitored.

11. (original) A system according to claim 9 wherein the monitoring data of the usage of the utility or utilities is obtained at pre-designated time intervals of usage of the utility.

12. (original) A system according to claim 9 wherein on the basis of the monitoring of the usage of utilities, at least one profile of usage is generated for usage of each utility to allow subsequent setting of utility usage and supply.

13. (original) A system according to claim 9 wherein utility usage data is allocated to the usage of apparatus within the premises.

14. (original) A system according to claim 13 wherein the usage of a plurality of utilities over the same time period is allocated to the usage of specified apparatus within the premises.

15. (cancelled)

16. (previously presented) A system according to claim 9 wherein the information received by the apparatus is provided by the utility provider to the user and relates to the utility usage profile information previously transmitted to the utility provider by the user.